UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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OVER FORTY PERCENT OF U.S. FARMS HAVE TELEPHONES

About 40.3 percent of the farms in the United States had telephones on July 1, 1952, according to data from an annual survey made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This is an increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ of one percent over a year earlier and an increase of 2.1 percent above the 1950 Census figure. Although a greater percentage of American farms now have telephones than ever before, the number of farms with telephone service in 1952 was about 300,000 less than in 1920 when 2,498,500 farms or 38.7 percent of the farms had telephones.

The increase in the proportion of farms with telephones during the past few years (see table) has been fairly consistent throughout the United States. Since 1950, the West South Central States - Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas - and States on the Pacific Coast have shown the greatest increases in the percentage of farms with telephones. During the 5-year period 1945 to 1950 the Western States and Middle Atlantic States - New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania - made the greatest advances. On July 1, 1952, nearly 75 percent of the farms in New England had telephones. This was the largest percentage recorded for any geographic region. States in other regions where more than 70 percent of the farms had telephones included Iowa, New Jersey, New York, and Kansas.

The estimates on percent of farms with telephones in 1951 and 1952 were based on reports received each year from over 20,000 farmers throughout the United States. The list of farmers to whom the questionnaire was sent was a cross section unbiased sample of all farms in the United States.

Percent of farms with Telephone Service, 1945 and 1947-52, by Regions

Regions	1945 1/	1947	1948	1949	1950 1/	1951	1952
	Pct.	Pct:	Pet	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
New England Middle Atlantic	63.1	67.8 51.0	68 ₈ 53 ₉ 3	70.9 57.6	72.9 61.7	73.5 62.5	74.3 63.9
W. N. Central	51.1 56.9	53.8 58.2 11.8	55.0 58.8 12.8	57.6 60.2 13.5	60.2 61.5 15.2	60.8	62.1 63.3 17.2
E. S. Central	: 10.4	11.0	11.4	12.2	13.5	14.2	15.7
Mountain Pacific	32.6 : 43.1	37.4 47.3	39 40 49 63	41.3	44.2 55.8	44.7 57.4	46.4
United States	31.8	33 • 7	34.6	36.4	38.2	38.8	40.3

1/Bureau of the Census.

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